

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE  
Cottingham Urban District  
For the Year 1911.

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# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Cottingham Urban District for the year 1911.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Cottingham Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

During the year 1911 the number of deaths registered in your district was 42 as against 64 in 1910, and 53 in 1909, and 60 in 1908.

The following were the ages at which the deaths took place:—

Under One Year	...	...	...	10	against	12	in 1910
1 Year and under 5	...	...	...	2	„	4	„
5 Years and under 15	...	...	...	2	„	1	„
15 Years and under 25	...	...	...	nil	„	5	„
25 Years and under 65	...	...	...	13	„	18	„
Over 65 years	...	...	...	15	„	24	„
TOTAL				42		64	

I find that two persons who died in your district had not been in residence more than a few weeks, thus reducing the deaths to 40 of the inhabitants.

The causes of the deaths and the ages at which they took place:—

January—4	{	Phthisis	...	...	...	male	...	67 years	
		Acute Bronchitis	...	...	...	female	...	7 years	
		Premature Birth	...	...	...	female	...	1 month	
		Whooping Cough	...	...	...	female	...	4 months	
February—4	{	Bronchitis	...	...	...	male	...	68 years	
		Convulsions	...	...	...	female	...	2 months	(Inquest)
		Bright's Disease	...	...	...	male	...	50 years	
		Cancer of Intestines...	...	...	...	male	...	64 years	



March—3	{	Senile Decay ... .. male ... .. 89 years
		Senile Decay ... .. female ... .. 91 years
		Heart Disease ... .. male ... .. 64 years
April—4	{	Heart Disease ... .. female ... .. 62 years
		Senile Decay ... .. female ... .. 87 years
		Pneumonia... .. male ... .. 47 years
		Cancer of the Womb ... female ... .. 61 years
May—4	{	Atelectasis... .. male ... .. 1 day
		Atelectasis... .. male ... .. 1 day
		Dentition and Convulsions male ... .. 21 months
		Cancer of Throat ... .. male ... .. 74 years
June—4	{	Cancer of Liver... .. male ... .. 53 years
		Heart Disease ... .. female ... .. 82 years
		Pneumonia... .. female ... .. 76 years
		Gastritis—Heart Failure... female ... .. 52 years
July—3	{	Acute Laryngitis ... .. male ... .. 35 years
		Acute Nephritis... .. male ... .. 34 years
		Premature Birth ... .. female ... .. 14 days
August—3	{	Infective Enteritis ... .. male ... .. 5 months
		Infective Enteritis ... .. male ... .. 1 month
		Epidemic Diarrhœa ... .. male ... .. 3 months
September—6	{	Pneumonia... .. female ... .. 25 years
		Phthisis ... .. female ... .. 30 years
		Pneumonia... .. male ... .. 71 years
		Paralysis—Heart Disease female ... .. 69 years
		Cancer of Breast ... .. female ... .. 81 years
		Obstruction of Bowels ... male ... .. 78 years
October—4	{	Tubercular Peritonitis ... female ... .. 2 months
		Cirrhosis of Liver ... .. male ... .. 75 years
		Cancer of Pylorus ... .. female ... .. 54 years
		Senile Decay ... .. female ... .. 75 years
November—1		Pneumonia... .. male ... .. 7 years
December—2	{	Pneumonia... .. male ... .. 15 months
		Senile Decay ... .. female ... .. 82 years

From the foregoing table it will be seen that Cancer and Pneumonia were accountable for six deaths each, and Tubercular disease to three.

During the extremely hot month of August when Diarrhœa was so very prevalent only three infants succumbed.

The Infantile mortality under one year was 10 as against 12 in 1910. Out of the 10, 4 died within a few days of birth, having practically no vitality.

The number of births registered in your district during 1911 was 107, against 122 in 1910, viz., 49 boys, 58 girls, 5 being illegitimate.

The births exceed the deaths by 65.



There have been 37 cases which came under the head of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, viz.:—

Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
TOTAL ...								<u>37</u>

In 1910 there were 26, and in 1909, 56.

During the year there were two cases of Phthisis, which came under the head of the 1908 Regulation of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act.

The house accommodation for the working classes is daily improving. The houses are built with modern conveniences, and have a good supply of pure water, which is obtained from the public service, and which is plentiful, and beyond suspicion, the source being many hundred feet below the surface, and from the chalk.

Drainage: the drainage is good and when necessary can be flushed. On the whole the fall is good, the exit being in the River Humber.

Excrement—disposal of: where there are privies and dry dust bins, these are emptied by the public scavengers, two or three times a week, or as often as required, or when a request is made for removal of same. The material is at once carted outside the village and deposited on the land and ploughed in as soon as possible.

Schools: the public elementary school, which is under the control of the East Riding County Council, is in a sanitary condition, and well supplied with water. On account of the increasing number of scholars the Educational Department have decided to enlarge the school very considerably. The health of the children is well looked after by the teachers. Anything of a suspicious character being at once communicated to the Medical Officer of Health.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases: up to the present time we have no method in vogue for the temporary treatment of any infectious disease that may come amongst us prior to the removal to the City of Kingston-upon-Hull Fever or Smallpox Hospitals, as the Cottingham Urban District Council have entered into an agreement with those authorities to take our cases. I am thankful to say that during the last ten years there have only been three cases requiring removal.





Food: the milk supply is good and wholesome, the greater part of which is produced in the district. The cowsheds are each year improving, the milksellers are becoming far more particular about the cleanliness of the animals and their surroundings. There has only been one prosecution in your district during the year. When any animal is discovered with tubercle the owner is at once made acquainted. There are only two milkshops; they are open in the summer time only for sale of milk to travellers. The Dairies as a whole are good and every year improvements are made. There are 59 registered cowsheds.

We have had no meat condemned as unwholesome; I can say that there is no better meat killed and sold than what can be purchased here. There are ten registered slaughter-houses, all of which have a plentiful supply of fresh water, and are kept in a good sanitary condition.

Housing Inspection: during the year there have been five houses condemned as unfit for human habitation.

There have been ten improved in respect to water supply, that means they have been connected with the public service. There were 23 improved with regard to drainage, which is pulling up the old porous pipes, and replacing same with new sanitary pipes cemented together. There has been 30 backyard improvements. Sanitary improvements, 25. Other compulsory improvements, 34.

This will make 122 general improvements during the year, which include new drainage, asphaltting, concreting and paving back yards and open squares, renewing privies, and supplying taps for water. I am pleased to say the old-fashioned pump is gradually becoming extinct in the village.

Your Nuisance Inspector has had a very hard time, what with the numerous improvements of the working-class houses, and in many cases the supervising, the replacing of good and efficient drain pipes, and doing away with old porous bad-jointed pipes, and attending to many slight troubles, his time has been fully occupied.

In Dunswell a night soil dépôt was made, the scavengers instead of depositing the refuse one hundred yards up the field as is required, dumped it down just inside the gateway not 25 yards from the high road, this happened just at the hottest time of the year, the smell was very bad, and endless flies infested the houses in the vicinity. As soon as I found out this nuisance I had it stopped, but the damage was done, for many hundreds of cart-loads



were scattered about, and to make matters worse a number of rag and bone pickers were always to be found turning the rubbish over, which caused the smell to be still worse. The houses close by were unbearable. This depôt was within 100 yards of a shaft or bore, some 11 ft. in diameter, from which most excellent spring water is to be obtained. This depôt was made without consulting the Medical Officer of Health for Cottingham, under whose jurisdiction Dunswell is. Some idea can be gleaned as to the quantity deposited here in the course of say a week, when I inform you that from 40 to 60 carts come per day. The refuse was soon removed by the market gardeners, but the land was, and still remains, frightfully contaminated.

I am thankful to say this abominable nuisance is now done away.

Any case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis which comes under the head of the 1911 Regulation is examined by the Medical Officer of Health, and on his recommendation is re-examined by a Physician appointed by the Withernsea Sanatorium Committee, and if approved by him is allowed to go there.

During the year there have been 9 cases of Diphtheria notified, all of which the Clinical Research Association, in London, have had the mucous from the throats to examine, which makes the diagnosis a certainty, and the treatment of the present day effectual. None of the patients succumbed to the disease.

The cases of Erysipelas were all caused through the patients neglecting some slight cut or abrasion, and allowing dirt to get to the wound.

*Prevalence of Control over:—*

I.—Acute Infectious Diseases. There were 16 cases of Scarlet-fever, all were in different parts of the district, but one family, all of which developed in 4 days; these could not be removed. The cause was never discovered, as the children had never been out of the village, and no child was suffering from the same complaint within half a mile.

II.—Tuberculosis Cases. These are the most difficult to deal with, the patients are so afraid of fresh air, and as for the use of disinfectants, they as often neglect to use them, though they are supplied gratuitously.

The Medical Officer finds the best cases to deal with are those that the School Medical Officer sends as suspects, these generally turn out well. There is plenty of room for suitable cases at the Withernsea Sanatorium.

*Means for Preventing Mortality in Childbirth and Infancy:—*

The Midwives Act, 1902, is not in vogue here.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, is not adopted here.



Out of the 10 deaths of Infants under 1 year, 4 were prematurely born, 1 died of Convulsions from undigested food, 3 from Infective Enteritis during the intensely hot weather in August, 1 from Whooping Cough, and 1 from Tubercular Peritonitis. The surroundings of all these children were good.

I am pleased to say there has been no epidemic of any consequence. The few cases of Scarlet-fever were distributed all over the parish.

Sanitary work carried out during 1911 :—

Dwelling Houses inspected ... ..	187
„ „ disinfected or cleansed ... ..	13
„ „ condemned as unfit for habitation ... ..	5
„ „ found overcrowded ... ..	2
„ House yards paved ... ..	5
Number of nuisances found and abated ... ..	148
Defective privies and ashpits ... ..	7
Privies converted to W.C.'s ... ..	8
„ „ to pail closets ... ..	none
Ashpits covered ... ..	none
Defective house drains ... ..	59
Drains trapped or disconnected ... ..	8
New drains laid ... ..	9
Drains better ventilated ... ..	9
Cesspools removed ... ..	1
Nuisances from animals abated ... ..	7
Other nuisances abated ... ..	33
Water supplies:—	
Houses newly supplied from water mains ... ..	27
New wells made ... ..	3
Wells closed, water unsafe ... ..	none
Samples of water sent for analysis ... ..	none
Water certificates granted for new houses ... ..	3
Dairies and Cowsheds:—	
Number on the Register ... ..	59
Visits to Cowsheds ... ..	} 266
„ Dairies ... ..	
Defects found and remedied ... ..	55
Slaughter Houses:—	
Number on the Register ... ..	10
Visits to ... ..	204
Common Lodging Houses	
Number on the Register ... ..	none
Visits to ... ..	none
Canal Boats inspected ... ..	none

Slaughter Houses: there are 10 in number, all registered; are clean and in good order, and well supplied with water.





Bakehouses: there are 7; are all above ground; are all retail; and are clean and in every way satisfactory.

Carpenters' Shops: 5 in number; are well lighted and ventilated, and are well adapted for the business.

Blacksmith's Shops: 4 in number; are well lighted and ventilated, and suitable for the purposes for which they are required.

Dressmakers: 4 in number; are in a sanitary condition, the air space being sufficient, and the drainage satisfactory; there is no overcrowding.

The other businesses, which come under the head of the Factory and Workshops Act, viz:—

Plumbers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Hairdressers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pork Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fish Shop (wet)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drapers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grocers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Tailors ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Shoemakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

are in good condition and suitable for their respective purposes.

In Dunswell where the drainage is bad there has been practically no illness. The only death during the year being an infant prematurely born.

The inhabitants are almost all connected with Agriculture. There are a number of cows kept in this district, and of late some very good cow-sheds have been built. The water is good and obtained from pumps.

There is a Blacksmith's and a Carpenter's shop which are suitable for the requirements of the place.

There is a School under the East Riding County Council, for the accommodation of 43 scholars; it is clean and well ventilated.

The Schoolmaster is particular to at once notify the Medical Officer of Health of any case that he may think of a suspicious character—of Infectious disease—amongst the pupils.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

GEO. H. WATSON,

*Medical Officer of Health,  
Cottingham Urban District.*

February 29th, 1912.

